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The Editor Letter To

122, Lynton Avenue, Tetterhall
Wolverhampton, WV6 9NG
England

July 2, 1976

Dear Sirs:

In June of this year I spent three weeks at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Lively and family on Rt. 1, Concord. The matter was reported in the **Times-Virginian** on June 17th.

I would just like to show my appreciation to the people of Appomattox and Concord. There are so many people I would like to thank, but I can't write to everybody. This seems the best way I can thank everyone for their kindness in making my stay in the U.S.A. a happy one.

Yours Faithfully,
Gerald W. Page

Stonewall

"And he took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them and blessed them." Mark 10:16

Mr. Carey Carson is improving nicely. He went back to the doctor in Lynchburg Friday. We are all praying his recovery will be fast.

Mrs. Herbert Scruggs came home from the hospital Sunday. We hope she will get on fine. Just knowing she is home should help a lot. Mrs. Helen Stratton is spending some time with them.

Rev. Mitchell has accepted the call to Hebron. He will be preaching his first sermon on August 22. Our concern should be how he will like us, not how we will like him.

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Elliott, Mark and Scott left Sunday morning for Riverside, California for a three week visit.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Alvis, Jr. spent the week end in Orange with her family, The Matthews.

Master Paul Davis has the chicken pox.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burnette, of Lynchburg, Mrs. C. D. Lewis, of Appomattox, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Garrett. Dale Joellen and Tracy visited Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Wheeler Sunday.

Saturday Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Wheeler visited Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Jones to meet Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wheeler and Joan who came by to get Kathy Jones to go with them to visit Mr. and Mrs. Don Kalding and family in Thawville, Ill. A safe trip is wished them.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodger Rogers spent Friday afternoon with Mrs. Hop Elliott.

FRCC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Floyd Williams, Chairman of the Golf Activities Committee announces the Captain's Choice tournament for men will be played July 24 and July 25. The register has been posted on the bulletin board for the 36-hole event and will remain up until Tues., July 20. A fee of $6.00 will be charged each participant to cover the cost of prizes and refreshments which will be served after play on Sunday. All members are urged to sign up early.

There will be a pro-am tournament at F.R.C.C. on Wed., Aug. 11. For more information contact Warren Moser, Club Professional.

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The Sunday School Lesson

COMMENTS BY HERBERT C. BRADSHAW

LESSON FOR SUNDAY, JULY 18, 1976

Storms Within the Church

Scripture: Matt. 7:15-29; 1 John 4:1-12

Jesus began to say to them, "take heed that no one leads you astray." - -Mark 13:5

From the nature of the human mind it is obvious that there will be differences in the approach to and understanding of God and His will. Thomas Jefferson accurately summarized this character of the human mind when he wrote in the Statute for Religious Freedom in Virginia, "Almighty God hath created the mind free . . ." With a free mind, human reason and thought may be expected to go in many directions.

When it made the Scriptures the basis of authority in the Christian religion, the Protestant Reformation adopted a criterion. It was a criterion, however, which still made possible a wide variety of interpretations, for different minds understand the Scriptures in different ways. Church history has been featured by "storms," to use the term in the topic of this week's International Sunday School lesson.

Jesus foresaw the variety in human interpretations when He warned His disciples in the Sermon on the Mount and at other times of false prophets. Granted the different conclusions free minds will reach, some of these conclusions will be erroneous. Freedom of the mind does not guarantee accuracy in interpretation or correctness in doctrine or infallibility in reasoning. This is true in the secular as well as the religious realm. Even in the field of the sciences, freedom of mind leads to mistaken and false conclusions and interpretations. Jesus made His words the plumbline by which faith and practice are to be tested. We have some of His words, at least, recorded in the New Testament. There may be preaching and labor in His name, but if they do not truly conform to His teachings, they are not of Him.

Early Christians adopted varying ideas. Paul found Christians in Corinth who did not believe Christ had risen from the dead. The Letters of John were written to correct an opinion which was being circulated in the churches, that Christ had not come in the flesh and that His body was mere appearance rather than reality. This was Docetism, one of several types of Gnosticism which arose early and plagued the Church for more than two centuries. Decetism and other Gnostic concepts held that Christ was not human, only divine. Another Gnostic view held that Christ was neither human nor divine, but a special type of creation. Still another Gnostic view maintained that Christ was born human and did not take on His divine nature until His baptism. To counter these views, the Church adopted the Apostles and Nicene Creeds which affirm that Christ was born with both human and divine natures.

As the Christian Church grew in power and after it had become a state church with the civil authority behind it, it tended to become increasingly authoritarian, allowing no dissent from its official position and practice without penalty. It became unresponsive to those Christians who criticized its materialism, its worldliness, its corruption, its autocracy, its superstitions, its oppression. Church officialdom turned a deaf ear to the proposals for reform by the Petrobrusians and without discrimination between the noble features of the Cathari movement, as its high standards of morality, and its heterodox position that matter is by creation evil, persecuted the entire movement, waging a war of extermination against one of its sects, the Albigensians. When John Wyclif translated the Scriptures into English and circulated the translation, the Church declared him a heretic. In Bohemia John Hus paid with his life for advocating Wyclif's view that the Scriptures are the source of authority in the Church.

Despite the obvious abuses in the sale of indulgences which Martin Luther protested, the Church made no concessions as it maintained an indefensible positions.

Storms in the Church continue today, in every faith. Yet the teachings of Jesus and the revelations of the Holy Spirit remain trustworthy guidelines for the faith and practice of Christians today.

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SPOUT SPRING BAPTIST CHURCH TO SHOW FILM

A film entitled "In His Step" will be shown Sunday, July 18, during Church Training.

Viewing the film will begin promptly at 6:45 p.m. Come and bring someone with you.

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Spring Creek Baptist Church Celebrates Bicentennial

America's 200th Birthday was celebrated all over the United States on the fourth of July. Spring Creek Baptist Church celebrated by wearing dress styles of the 1700.

A Bicentennial Program was presented by the adult and youth choirs of the church. Such songs were sung as "It's Time To Pray America" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic". After the program, lunch was served on the grounds at the church.

In the photo above, standing left to right, are Mrs. H. E. Carwile, Sr., Miss Michelle Carwile, Mrs. Gerald Carwile, Miss Rhonda S. Womack, and Miss Jeanne H. Baldwin.

Wingina

Many in our neighborhood enjoyed the services at the High School and the Rededication of the Buckingham Court House on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles (Smitty) Smith and children have returned from a vacation in Florida where they visited Disney World and to Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Harvey and Mrs. Minnie Cunningham are vacationing in Cincinnati, Ohio visiting Mrs. Cunninghams son and daughter-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Cunningham; they will return by way of Gauley Bridge, West Virginia to visit Mr. Harvey's sister.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Kitchen were in Buckingham on Saturday and Sunday to visit their son and daughter-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Kitchen, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ledford of Appomattox announce the birth of their first child, a girl, named Amanda Dawn. The maternal grandmother is Mrs. Mary Kidd of Wingina, Va. and the paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Ledford of Gastonia, North Carolina.

Mrs. Helen Wright, Miss Annie Lou Wright, Mrs. Brenda Ragland, Mrs. Brenda Kitchen, and Mrs. Lucille Kitchen attended the Elvis Presley Concert in Richmond on June 29.

Visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Tench this week are Mr. and Mrs. Earl Watson, Mrs. Myrtle Watson and Miss Rosa Meister, all of Atlanta, Ga.

Mrs. Nellie Bryant is a patient in the Southside Community Hospital in Farmville. We wish her a speedy recovery.

We extend sympathy to the family of Mr. John Pearson.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ragland attended the Statler Brother's Day in Staunton, Virginia on July 5.

Attending the same event were Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ledford, Mrs. Mary Kidd, and Miss Kitty Kidd.

Mr. Gordon Ragland, Sr., Mr. Benny Ragland, and Mr. Buddy Bryant attended the 20th Anniversary of the Thomas Road Baptist Church, Pastor Jerry Falwell, on Sunday. They reported a wonderful day.

Mr. and Mrs. James Hackett and Jeff were visiting in Buckingham over the week-end.

Visiting with Mrs. Vera Hackett on Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stroup of Yorktown. Mrs. Hackett visited with Mr. and Mrs. Junior Ballowe on Tuesday.

Mr. Bob Catlett has been sick for the past few days, we wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. E. W. Jamerson has been a patient in Lynchburg for surgery. He is home now, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Remember Church Times at Antioch Baptist Church: 10:00 A.M. Sunday School; 11:00 A.M. Worship Service; 2nd. and 4th. Sundays. 11:00 A. M. Sunday School, 10:00 A.M. Worship Service 1st. and 3rd. Sun days.

First Baptist

Impressive services were held at the First Baptist Church Sunday at 11 a.m. Dr. I. G. Williams, Dean of Women's College, was guest speaker. Music was rendered by the Junior Choir. We, the members, wish Rev. Davis a happy vacation.

July 18th at 7:30 p.m. Rev. J. D. Scruggs will be guest speaker. You are cordially invited to attend this service. It is for the benefit of the Sunday School.

Mrs. Hamlet has returned from her vacation. She reports an enjoyable trip. Her sister and niece, Mrs. Hayes Wilson and daughter, is visiting her now.

Visiting in the home of Mrs. Louise Watson and family were her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. James Hendrick, of West Virginia and Mr. Hendrick's brother of Washington, D.C. They enjoyed their stay while at home.

Visting in the home of Mr. Willie Wright last week were Mrs. Lena Tiggett of Detroit, Mich., and Mr. Warren Tibbs of Chicago, Ill. and Mrs. Ruby Ferguson, her son and his friend, of Baltimore, Md.

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